

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious in view of Wilgus (U.S. Patent 4,845,817) in combination with Thompson et al. (U.S. Patent 5,363,557).

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 5 and has canceled claim 2. Currently pending in the case are claims 1 and 3-6.

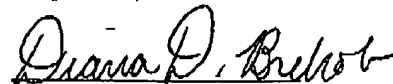
Applicant has amended claim 1 as recommended by the Examiner, i.e., by introducing "a radial bearing surface" and "an axial bearing surface," thereby responding to the lack of antecedent basis (emphasis added).

Applicant has further amended claim 1 to include, substantially, the limitations of claim 2. Applicants submit that Wilgus shows an oil groove, element 14 of Figure 1 and that Thompson et al. show "two additional oil passages provided by the flared ends 22 of the flange walls" in column 5, lines 26-28. However, Applicant submits that in combining the reference, Applicant's "orifice passing through the bearing shell connecting said oil passage to said groove" is not shown by either reference singly or alone. The advantage of allowing oil from the oil groove to be fed into the axial oil passage through the orifice is not recognized by either Wilgus or Thompson, et al. Because neither reference shows an orifice connecting the groove and the oil passage, the combination of the references does not render Applicant's invention obvious. Applicant submits that claim 1, as amended, is allowable and such allowance is courteously requested. Applicants further request allowance of claims 3-6, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1.

No other art is cited in the Office Action. Based on the foregoing comments, the above-identified application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is courteously solicited. If any further amendment is necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable condition, the Examiner is courteously requested to contact the undersigned by fax or telephone at the number listed below.

Please charge any cost incurred in the filing of this Amendment, along with any other costs, to Deposit Account 06-1510. If there are insufficient funds in this account, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No.06-1505.

Respectfully submitted,



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